

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS BRANCH

The Environmental Permits Branch administers permit and registration systems for air, water and solid waste programs by reviewing and evaluating applications and engineering reports and plans.

WASTEWATER PERMITS SECTION

Under federal and state laws, no person can discharge pollutants into a waterway from a point source unless a permit is obtained from the Department, which regulates what may be discharged and how much. Point sources include private and public wastewater treatment facilities, manufacturing plants, agriculture, wholesale, retail and other commercial establishments. Those obtaining permits comply with firm, legally enforceable requirements to meet applicable state laws. At present, the Department administers 94 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and 36 Zones of Mixing.

The Department currently administers a General Pretreatment Program for EPA. This program controls wastewater discharges into municipal sewer systems. This program was delegated to the City and County of Honolulu during 1982.

Another program administered by the Department is the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program that regulates discharges of pollutants to subsurface disposal systems. This program will lead up to the pending delegation of another joint federal-state program, Underground Injection Control for regulating wastewater discharge into the ground for the purposes of protecting groundwater resources. There are an estimated 500 injection wells in the State which transmit wastewater of some kind into groundwaters. The Underground Injection Control Program will determine and control any threat these wastewaters will have on our present and future drinking water resources.

Table 1

Permits Issued or Renewed (1984 Calendar Year)

NPDES	37
Zones of Mixing	9
Underground Injection Control (Preliminary processing complete)	11

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PERMITS SECTION

Air and Solid Waste permits are also administered by the Environmental Permits Branch. Air permits are issued to stationary sources of air pollution. Its primary objective is to safeguard the ambient air quality of the State. Under an agreement between U.S. EPA and the Hawaii Department of Health, the Branch administers the source review provisions of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations and implements certain categories of the Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

With the assistance of an Air Advisory Committee, Chapter 11-59, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Chapter 11-60, Air Pollution Control, were reviewed for adequacy and PSD provisions incorporated. Proposed revisions were presented to the public in a series of public hearings conducted during May 1984. In addition, geothermal rules were drafted and an ambient air standard for hydrogen sulfide proposed.

Solid waste permits are issued to sanitary landfills and processing facilities such as reclamation plants, transfer stations, convenience centers and incinerators so as to assure that state's standards are met by these facilities.

Table 2

Air Pollution Control (1984 Calendar Year)

Authority to Construct Permits Issued	45
Permit to Operate Issued	49

Solid Waste Management

Permits Issued	10
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